IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A method comprising:

generating, on a first computer, a first license for software installed on the first computer, the first license valid for a first predetermined period of time;

generating, on a second computer, a second license for the installed software, the second license valid for a second predetermined period of time;

obtaining from the second computer the second license;

replacing the first license with the second license;

selectively refreshing the second license prior to expiration of the second predetermined period of time.

2.   (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first and second licenses each share a unique identifier to associate the first and second licenses with the first computer.

3.   (Unchanged) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first and second licenses are digitally signed.

4.   (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein obtaining further comprises:

connecting to the second computer,

providing the second computer with at least some of the data from the first license, and

exchanging the provided data from the first license for the second license.

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5.   (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4, wherein connecting to the second computer is performed using a communications network.

6.   (Unchanged) The method of Claim 5, wherein the communications network is the internet.

7.   (Unchanged) The method of Claim 5 wherein exchanging includes formatting the data from the first license using XML and exchanging the formatted data using the HTTP protocol.

8.   (Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein replacing further comprises:

matching the unique identifier of the second license to the unique identifier of the first license, and if not matched discarding the second license without replacing the first license, and

authenticating the digital signature of the second license, and if not authentic discarding the second license without replacing the first license.

9.   (Unchanged) The method of Claim 1, further comprising verifying whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the replaced license has expired.

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10.   (Unchanged) The method of Claim 3 wherein digitally signed includes applying a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest, the message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique identifier.

Please cancel claims 11 and 12 without prejudice.

13.   (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing:

generating, on a first computer, a first license for software installed on the first computer, the first license valid for a first predetermined period of time;

generating, on a second computer, a second license for the installed software, the second license valid for a second predetermined period of time;

obtaining from the second computer the second license;

replacing the first license with the second license;

selectively refreshing the second license prior to expiration of the second predetermined period of time.

Please cancel claims 14-24 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

25.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the first and second licenses each share a unique identifier to associate the first and second licenses with the first computer.

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26.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the first and second licenses are digitally signed.

27.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein obtaining further comprises:

connecting to the second computer,

providing the second computer with at least some of the data from the first license, and

exchanging the provided data from the first license for the second license.

28.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 27, wherein connecting to the second computer is performed using a communications network.

29.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the communications network is the internet.

30.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25, wherein replacing further comprises:

matching the unique identifier of the second license to the unique identifier of the first license, and if not matched discarding the second license without replacing the first license, and

authenticating the digital signature of the second license, and if not authentic

discarding the second license without replacing the first license.

31.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, further comprising

verifying whether the replaced license is valid, including determining whether the

replaced license has expired.

32.   (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein digitally

signed includes applying a message digest algorithm to a portion of the license not

including a length of the license or the digital signature, resulting in a message digest, the

message digest being further encrypted with a binary key extracted from the unique

identifier.